

## Volunteer powerhouse

University's volunteer contributions are staggering.

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## Cleaning house

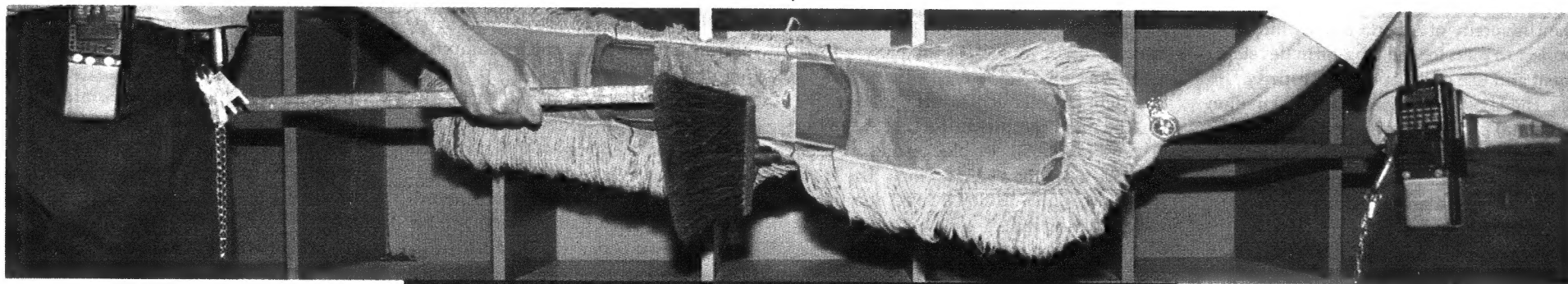
A plan to contract out even more janitorial services has sparked a heated debate.

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## Top of the world

A U of A researcher finds out what supports the Tibetan Plateau.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## How much is too much?

### *Sun stickers let you know when to head for the shade*

By Phoebe Dey

When Dr. Stuart Jackson first arrived at the University of Alberta more than eight years ago, he was looking for a chemist to collaborate on a research project and business venture. Today, that partnership has led to an invention that may help prevent skin cancer.

Jackson and Dr. John Mercer teamed up to invent a sticker that changes colour when someone has received the maximum recommended exposure to the sun.

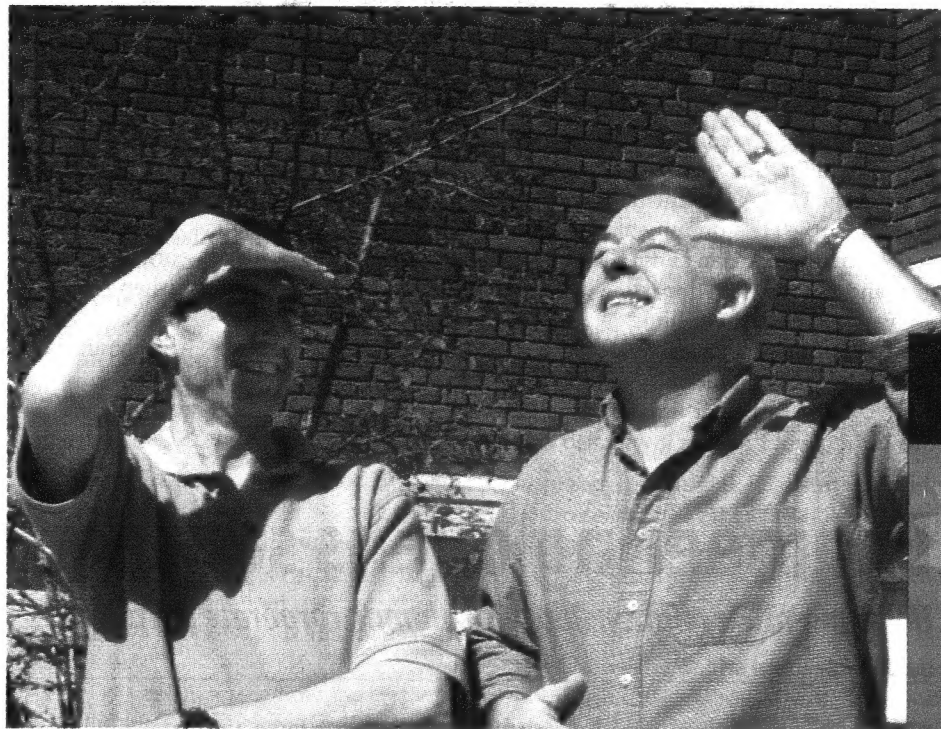
Nearly all skin cancers occur in fair-skinned individuals who have been exposed to the sun, X-rays, or ultraviolet light for prolonged periods. And because skin cancer is the most preventable type of the deadly disease—yet the most common of all cancers, accounting for about half of all new cases in western populations—the pair hopes their invention will remind people when it's time to get out of the sun.

"The key was to make something simple so people could see the change easily and realize that they have had enough sun," said Jackson. "If we can make people start thinking more about that, that's great."

The enterprise began when Jackson had started a company called Indico, which was set up to develop products that change colour when radiation is detected, but he needed a chemist for the enterprise. Soon after, former U of A president Paul Davenport held a barbecue at his home to welcome new faculty—and Jackson found his partner.

"I met John Mercer and he was the only chemist I knew here, so he became part of the company," Jackson said of the pharmacy professor. "Initially, the company was divided one-third me, one-third John, and one-third the university."

Jackson and Mercer's first application of the radiation-detecting sticker was for blood bags. Once donated blood has been radiated, there is no way to tell, so the stickers are designed to change colour when the proper amount of radiation has been applied.



Drs. Stuart Jackson (right) and John Mercer have designed SunSpots, a product that lets you know when it's time to get out of the sun.

Jackson and Mercer had to prevent the blood sticker from receiving too high a dose of ultraviolet rays, which sparked another initiative.

"It led me to the idea that if we don't protect the sticker so much, we can use it as sun medication," said Jackson, a professor in the Department of Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging. "And that idea basically just sat there for a while."

Jackson and Mercer connected with a group of businessmen based out of Seattle, Washington. Investors were brought in and Indico went public, buying out the university and paying off the two researchers in "bits and pieces," said Jackson, who is still a consultant with Indico.

"The university did okay and we made a bit of money, but we were basically employees and not owners. But while we made these radiation stickers that are

selling all over the world we were looking for a different opportunity, and the idea of sun stickers came up again."

After a market survey by the Seattle group revealed the sun stickers would be a fruitful product, Jackson and Mercer came up with a prototype, using friends as guinea pigs.

"I belong to a running group so I handed out the patch with different formulations to members of my group," said Mercer. "We got a chance to look at different adhesives as we were doing runs until we came up with the right formulation."

The final product, now called SunSpots, is being marketed by the Seattle group. The sticker, which features a smiling sun on a yellow background, turns red and the face disappears when the person wearing it has had too much sun.

Similar products have been marketed,

"But the value is really just to raise awareness.

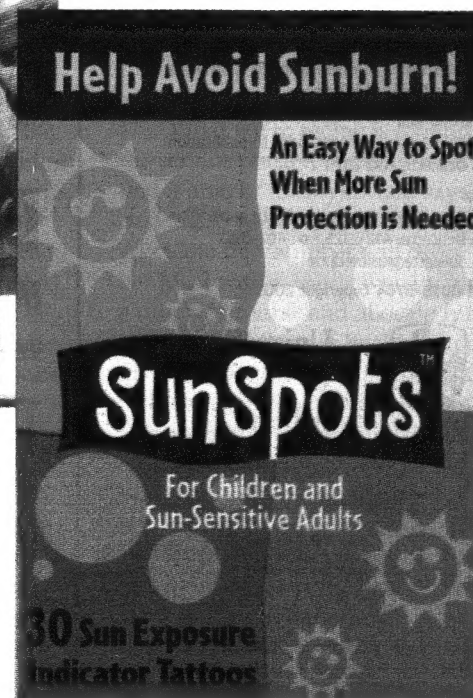
Young children love sticking things on them-

selves and if this raises awareness for that

generation about getting too much sunshine,

then that's what counts."

—Dr. Stuart Jackson



said Jackson, but none that are targeted specifically to UVB, wavelengths that are more commonly associated with causing skin cancer.

The Seattle group has since purchased the rights for the sun stickers and if the sale of the product is successful, the royalty stream could come back to Indico, said Jackson.

"But the value is really just to raise awareness," he said. "Young children love sticking things on themselves and if this raises awareness for that generation about getting too much sunshine, then that's what counts."■



# Where do we grow from here?

University gets to work on long-range growth plans

By Ryan Smith

If you fail to prepare, be prepared to fail, goes the aphorism, and with that in mind the University of Alberta is launching a project to plan for the long-term development and use of its land and property.

The U of A has more than \$100 million in capital projects in progress or recently completed. And with plans to expand enrollment by 25 per cent over the next 25 years, it's important that a new plan be developed.

"We've been following a capital construction plan that was created in 1969,

and that plan put principles in place that have proven themselves over time and served us well. But with our plans for continued growth we feel it's time to set down a new framework," said Associate Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Art Quinney.

The main campus at the U of A is 89 hectares (about 50 city blocks) and includes more than 90 buildings. The U of A also owns an additional 5,000 hectares of land for off-campus research. Quinney said one of the more interesting elements of the planning will be how the U of A intends to develop the south campus, property it owns in the Garneau area, and

the Faculté Saint-Jean.

"We'll be looking at a lot of issues, including density and use of green space, and transportation on, and to, campus," Quinney said.

The planning will include focus-group consultations with students, faculty, support staff and members of the surrounding communities. "We're committed to a broad-based process that includes representation from every group who will be affected by the changes," Quinney added.

Professional architectural and engineering planners from the IBI Group have been contracted to guide the project.

Working with the U of A's Capital and Strategic Planning Services, the planners will develop a long-range plan over the course of the next 10 months. It is expected the first outcome of their work will be in draft form in late June. The draft will frame a conceptual plan, out of which full documentation of the long-term plan, complete with concepts for facilities development, is expected to be in place by January 2002.

Those who would like more information or would like to be involved in the planning process can contact Emily Rowan at 492-3024 or emilyp.rowan@ualberta.ca. ■

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## University celebrates 'brain gain'

Eight new research chairs announced

By Ryan Smith

The second round of Canada Research Chairs (CRC) has been announced, and the University of Alberta has received eight of the 76 new chairs. The university led the nation in the Canada Foundation for Innovation infrastructure component of the CRC program, with six projects approved for funding.

Dr. Mark Lewis, currently a mathematics professor at the University of Utah, is one of the U of A's newly appointed chair holders. He will direct a new Centre for Mathematical Biology through his joint appointment between the mathematical sciences and biological sciences departments. For his research, Lewis puts biological measurements and observations into mathematical models to describe how different parts of ecosystems function together. With the use of such models, he and colleagues have improved understanding of the recolonization of the Mount St. Helens region as it recovered from the devastating 1980 volcanic eruption.

Lewis, who will arrive at the U of A this summer, is "a real high-flier down there," said Dr. Jim Muldowney, associate chair of the U of A's mathematical sciences department. "He's prominent both as a serious mathematician and a serious biologist, and I know both departments here are very happy to have him."

The appointments are "a reversal of the 'brain drain' situation," Muldowney added. "And this chair not only benefits our faculty, but I'm sure it will also help us

to attract good students to our program."

Lewis, a Canadian educated at Oxford and in the U.S., said he decided to come to the U of A because "it is already very strong in the areas of mathematical biology and in ecology and environmental ecology. There is a great deal of opportunity to build on existing program strengths, and the chair and support from the university and government will allow me to do this."

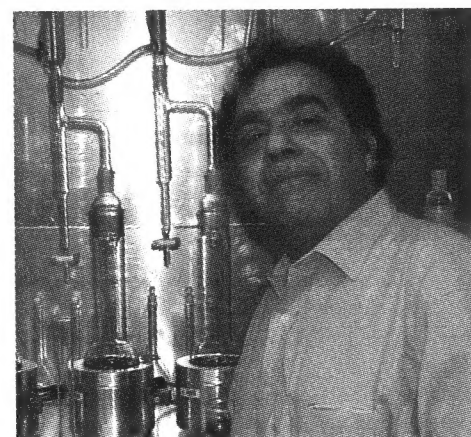
Another of the U of A's new chairs is Dr. Jacob Masliyah of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Masliyah and his team of researchers will "look at the fundamentals of oil sand extraction and try to relate it to developments that can be applied commercially," Masliyah said.

"Sometimes you can recover 95 per cent of the bitumen from certain ores, but other times in similar ores you can only get 50 per cent. We're researching to try to understand the science behind why we're not always getting high recoveries so that we can improve on it," Masliyah said.

Along with Lewis and Masliyah, the other new U of A chairs are:

- Dr. Mark Freeman – condensed matter physics
- Dr. Michael James – biochemistry
- Dr. John Vederas – organic chemistry
- Dr. Roderick Wasylshen – physical chemistry
- Dr. Daniel Kwok – mechanical engineering
- Dr. Brian Rowe – respiration

The six approved CRC infrastructure



Dr. Jacob Masliyah, one of eight new holders of research chairs at the U of A.

projects and funding totals at the U of A are:

- Atom manipulation facility - \$484,000
- Equipment to enhance capabilities for protein expression, purification, crystallization, and computing in structural biology - \$197,903
- Integrated studies of dropwise condensation through Fourier Transform Infra-Red spectroscopy and ellipsometry - \$100,000
- Cellular and inflammatory markers in acute asthma - \$140,000
- Bioorganic laboratory facility - \$125,000
- Materials Characterization using Hyperpolarized Xenon NMR and Micro-Imaging - \$125,000 ■

## Engineering opens southern Alberta office

Helps maintain relationship with alumni, corporate partners

By David Beharry

The University of Alberta faculty of engineering, has become the first to open an off-campus development office.

The idea behind opening the satellite office is to further develop and maintain relationships with alumni and corporate partners in Calgary, says David Petis, the faculty's director of development and alumni relations.

"Opening the office in Calgary will allow the faculty of engineering to maintain and build new relationships with engineering alumni in southern Alberta," said Petis, who added that the faculty's southern Alberta presence includes an alumni relations office.

The move is important for the faculty because of the high concentration of alumni and supporters in Calgary, Petis said. The faculty is one of Canada's largest and most prestigious engineering schools. Alumni are employed around the world but there is an especially strong contingent of more than 3,600 in southern Alberta.

With such a large number of alumni concentrated in one area, and with the majority of resource industry corporate offices in Calgary, the move seemed logical, Petis said.

There is also the added benefit of further developing strong relationships with the corporate partners who are based in Calgary.

"Many of the corporate partners are based in Calgary so having the office in Calgary is an excellent way of keeping in close contact with those corporate partners," said Petis. There has been significant support for the faculty from various corporate partners including Trans Canada Pipeline, TransAlta, Suncor, Shell, PetroCanada and others. Various other corporate partners are developing scholarships and student-driven reports.

Staff at the office are responsible for management of faculty fund raising activities and the daily management of faculty alumni and community relations.

The office is located at the University of Alberta's office, in downtown Calgary. The development comes at an important time for the faculty, which is experiencing considerable growth.

"This is a very exciting time for the faculty of engineering, because the faculty already has excellent facilities and there are two new buildings which are scheduled to be opened in 2001," said Petis. Opening the development office in Calgary is of strategic importance to the faculty because as Petis says "it will only further establish the image of the University of Alberta and the faculty of engineering."

Maintaining and developing relationships with alumni and corporate partners is something that needs to be nurtured, and by having the development and alumni relations office in Calgary the faculty of engineering is taking a pragmatic approach to deal with the long-term needs of the faculty. ■



# The 29-per-cent solution

*University's plan to contract out cleaning sparks heated debate*

By Cheryl Mahaffy

Expanded contracting out of campus custodial services. Creative money-saving initiative—or crass exploitation? As Brad Wuetherik, incoming president of the Graduate Student Association, succinctly states regarding a Building Services plan to double the area cleaned by contract workers, “there are obviously two sides to it.”

Below, the two sides. As more than one building occupant has wryly observed, the truth may lie somewhere in between.

## CREATIVE INITIATIVE

Mary Miller is caught in the classic aftermath-of-the-’90s-downsize squeeze. As the University of Alberta’s Building Services manager, she has watched more than one-fifth of her budget erode away, even as demands mushroom. With three more buildings coming on stream later this year and the student body continuing to swell, that squeeze can only get tighter.

Loath to cut services, Miller teamed with building services assistant manager George Thomlison to propose another solution: contract out 29 per cent of campus janitorial work.

That proposal receives strong support from Jim Mitchell, chief facilities officer and associate vice president (finance), who calls it a creative solution from a cash-strapped division. “This will happen,” he says. “By July, we will have that contractor on campus.”

External contractors began cleaning major facilities such as Education back in 1992; three firms now clean at least 10 per cent of campus facilities—Miller puts the figure as high as 16 per cent. What’s new is an attempt to outsource one large package of work, in the hope of enticing a major contractor to set up on site.

“The university is so large that we can attract some pretty major players here,” Miller says. “I would hope with the amount of buildings we have in the Request For Proposal package now, we can attract the larger companies to come in and set up a good administrative unit, to oversee the whole project and cut down on our work.”

Mitchell expects the plan to save as much as \$250,000 a year, without jeopardizing NASA positions. “No one will lose a job over this,” he promises. “What we’ve done is to allow attrition to grow to a point where employees can be reassigned to other campus buildings. That’s why we’ve stopped at 29 per cent.”

The timing couldn’t be better, Mitchell adds. Tendering the janitorial work for new facilities as they open saves an estimated \$100,000 in cleaning equipment. A July start also coincides with the end of a major contract with SMS Modern.

In the past decade, contractors such as SMS have proven quite capable of matching the work of internal staff, Miller says. “We are not downgrading quality. In fact, we expect more. If there are absences, a contractor can put forth replacement workers. Whereas with us, if somebody’s away, we need to cut corners and make do, because I don’t have a pool of relief workers.”

It’s no secret that cleaning contractors achieve savings by undercutting the wages received by in-house staff. Some universities, such as the University of New Brunswick have set a floor on wages, ensuring that the people cleaning their buildings receive at least 75 cents more than minimum wage. At the U of A, by contrast, “all we concern ourselves with is the cost of cleaning, and whether they



A plan to increase the amount of custodial work at the university has management and labour in a standoff.

achieve our quality levels,” Mitchell says.

Hearing vociferous objections to the proposed contract expansion from the Non-Academic Staff Association, Mitchell hopes to quell some fears through hour-long meetings with Building Services staff. “It’s important they understand this process is cost driven,” he says. “It’s not on my agenda to consider outsourcing as a mode of operation.” Further, he adds, savings gained through contracting out “will be used for other projects within Building Services.”

Miller isn’t about to bet on those savings yet, especially in light of Edmonton’s heating economy. “We will go through this whole process and see what the market is out there,” she says.

Will the percentage of contracted cleaning expand even more in future? That’s an open question. “What we’re trying to do now is put together a four-year business plan, and we really don’t know how big it will grow,” Mitchell says. “But there are areas of the campus we won’t outsource due to high security or sensitive research, areas where our own staff have training. We will always maintain a core competency.”

Miller prefers to see how the 29-per-cent plan plays out before predicting the future. But for today, given the cards in her hand, she stands by her proposal. “We could have reduced services. That would be the obvious choice, but I don’t think that’s a good way to go,” she says. “To use the excuse ‘I don’t have enough money’—that doesn’t cut it. We need to use all the avenues out there to maintain buildings in a clean and safe condition for all our users.” After all, she adds, “that is the Building Services’ mandate.”

## CRASS EXPLOITATION

A sweat shop. That’s what the U of A is creating by contracting out janitorial services, says Art Clarke, president of the Non-Academic Staff Association. “And we’re living in a country that’s supposed to be the best in the world,” he adds, vehemently in disgust. “People here are working for starvation wages—wages they can’t live on. How is it that some need to make \$100,000 a year and others almost nothing? At the supermarket, they pay the same price for food.”

Contract custodial workers earn as little as \$6.25 an hour, Clarke notes; that adds up to about \$13,000 a year, far below Canada’s low-income cut-off of \$33,000 for a family of four. Even with second jobs, they struggle to make ends meet.

What’s more, contract employees receive no benefits, notes Josi Johnson, a NASA steward who helps keep Clinical Sciences clean. After 13 years with Building Services, she’s now making \$22 an hour, just over \$22,000 per year. Yet her family still struggles, even with paid benefits and her husband’s somewhat lower Building Services wage. “We’re the lowest paid; why pick on us?” Johnson laments.

“We hear over and over that benefits are too expensive,” Clarke adds. “But what’s so wrong with those making a small amount getting money for glasses, and medical care, and dental work? They keep saying ‘our core business is teaching and research.’ But that can’t be done without support.”

As a Building Services superintendent, Clarke inspects work done by external as well as staff custodians, and admits contract crews can do the job. “Overall, there’s not much difference,” he says. “They can afford to hire more people than we per square foot, but they run short staffed more often than not.” Low wages spur rampant turnover among contract workers, he explains, and despite what university administrators may say, “they don’t have a big resource of people to draw from.”

So perhaps it’s no surprise that some contracts fizzle, to NASA’s delight. “We got some of Phys Ed back, because the contractors couldn’t keep up,” notes NASA business manager Barbara Surdykowski. “Users were complaining that the hygienic conditions of the showers and lockers and pool side were disgusting, so our members were put back in, to bring those areas up to standards.”

With staff spread thin, NASA custodians have their own troubles trying to keep things clean. The spate of unfilled positions in recent months compounds the scramble, Surdykowski says, and workers have paid a price in sheer exhaustion. “We just recently participated in meetings about the work environment, and our

members were very vocal about injuries, lack of respect, supernormal assignments, the lack of promotion and inability to move to lighter duty if needed. How long have they been holding our members hostage to prepare for this move?”

The announcement follows an April 1 contract settlement giving staff an eight-per-cent increase over two years. “For us, that was a large raise,” says Johnson. Yet some members now tell her they’d rather work at the old wage than face the fear of having their jobs contracted out.

As the number of internal custodians shrinks, the university is losing the benefit of long-term staff who know and care enough to spot unusual people and events, from rumbling boilers to unwelcome interlopers, Surdykowski says. She is convinced that maintenance and other costs have risen under the new regime, but says the exact amount is hard to compute. “There’s never been a full audit with all criteria, other than the bottom line. The employer doesn’t give credit for the work and compassion and loyalty these people provide when everybody else is asleep.”

The very fact that cleaners work in the dead of night is a bone of contention. Before the mid-’90s, the typical shift began at 6 p.m., and many custodians worked part time, ending at 10 p.m. Now a part-time shift runs 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Many quit. Others took full-time shifts, thus reducing the number of people on benefits.

“They said we could clean more square footage when people are not in offices and classrooms, but that has not been borne out,” Clarke says.

Nor are building occupants necessarily happy with the new hours, Johnson adds. “I’ve talked to people staying late in labs, and they say, ‘this is nuts. Why are you working at this hour? You don’t bother us; we like to see you here.’” Theft has increased since the shift change, she says. “The people who knew who should be in the buildings are no longer there in the evening hours.”

“What we’re seeing is a trend where the service portion of the university is under attack,” Surdykowski says. NASA custodians now number 220, but onlookers speculate that number will drop to zero. In her ideal world, the university would take a different course and allocate funds to clean all buildings at livable wage, even if that means refusing donations for new facilities until the provincial government puts more money into maintenance envelopes. Harking to the premier’s fire-side chats about keeping Alberta’s financial house in order, she adds, “this employer should show Premier Klein that he’s building houses—like the Loughheed years built hospitals, only now it’s universities—without spending the dollars to maintain them.”

Expecting no spontaneous change of heart, NASA is preparing to fight. Its ammunition includes a study co-authored by Stan Drugge, professor emeritus in Business, which found that contracting out in several public schools saved no money, and in fact created new problems due to reduced worker loyalty. As well, NASA intends to flog the fact that current contracts haven’t been checked to ensure they meet federal standards for hiring disadvantaged workers. And the association is asking sympathetic donors to withhold trust money as leverage for change.

“The pressure’s on. And they’re worried,” Surdykowski says. ■



# Finding the good in those long, cold winters

*Killam professor's looking at ways industry can use weather to clean the environment*

By Gilbert A. Bouchard

At the heart of Dr. David Sego's research is the belief that we should work with Alberta's cold northern climate rather than fighting against it. Sego, a professor of civil and environmental engineering professor and one of eight University of Alberta professors to be awarded this year's Killam Annual Professorship, puts this core belief into action through the innovative ways he's developed to use our cold winters to help process mining waste.

"I'm working at finding ways to use the process of ice formation as a separator and as a means of purification," says the professor, whose formal training is in permafrost engineering.

After the slow down in the Arctic economy a decade ago, Sego turned his attention to less extreme cold weather climates—particularly mining operations like Syncrude and Suncor in Fort McMurray as well as coal and diamond mines in northern Alberta and Chile.

Realizing that up to 85 per cent of the volume of some mining waste is clear water, Sego has developed ways to more rapidly extract that water from the solid waste to help speed the reclamation process. Solid wastes, for example, are pumped over large areas and frozen in thin layers to maximize spring melting and evaporation, while liquid wastes might be sprayed into the air forcing the water to crystallize so it can be easily separated from the other chemicals.

Not limited to dealing with mining wastes, the prolific professor, who has written more than 200 academic papers, also believes this freezing technique could be used in other industries, such as large-scale pig farms. "We're doing lab tests at the moment to see how you can use freezing to separate out the valuable nutrients in the manure so they can then be used in



Dr. David Sego is finding ways to take advantage of our varied climate to help clean the environment.

fertilizers."

Sego is also experimenting with different plant covers to find more effective methods of dehydrating and solidifying mining waste.

"We've found species of fast-growing plants that can grow directly on the oil sands tailings," he explains. Sego says that these particular plants being studied have high water requirements, which means that they act like tiny organic pumps. "The roots of the plants also act like a fiber reinforcement to the soil," he says.

"This way you're using the climate in

the most effective way possible: freezing waste in the winter and using plants in the summer. You're getting the most out of the year by understanding both the strengths and limitations of the environment. Like the summer, it may be short in the north, but you have so many hours of sunlight."

Realizing that one industry's waste isn't waste in the absolute sense, Sego has been studying methods to combine waste streams from different industries to produce economically useful and environmentally safe products. In one project, waste fly-ash from an Al-Pac pulp plant

and waste from a pulp plant in Grande Prairie are combined to produce a cost and environmentally-efficient substitute for expensive Portland cement used in the upgrading of roads.

Regardless of these other research streams, Sego still has an interest in the Canadian Arctic, and notes that the cold-room facilities on campus are currently being rebuilt. "Because of the increase in economic activity in the Arctic, we're going to be focusing more on those studies."

A great believer in teaching and mentoring students—"the life-blood of an institution,"—the 50-year-old educator is fond of using a team approach to supervision, pairing up more senior and junior staff members with students to get the maximum spread of experience and background.

It should come as no surprise that Sego enjoys cold weather sports, especially downhill skiing. The active scientist also is heavily involved in various technical societies including the Canadian Geotechnical Society, in which he has recently completed a term as Vice-President.

As dedicated to his family as his studies, Sego relishes spending time with his wife and children, and has been enjoying watching his sons' careers develop—one of them is also a civil engineer. "We have a cabin on the West Coast and I like to drive the boat when my sons go fishing—I can just sit back and do some free reading," says the professor, who's been on staff at the U of A since 1985.

The Killam Annual Professorships, established in July 1991, are awards based on scholarly activities such as teaching, research, publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students and courses taught, as well as service to the community beyond the university. ■

## Volunteers squeeze five-year effort out of 365 days

*Staff and students honoured for community service*

By Phoebe Dey

Two years ago Dr. Michael Frishkopf started receiving requests for his West African Music Ensemble to perform, and he hadn't even done any promotion of the group. People had heard about the unique sound that students—and even a professor or two—were making in a group that formed as an offspring from a class in the Department of Music.

The ensemble has now taken part in almost 20 community performances—specifically human rights events and events that address Edmonton's international community.

"Being out in the community does several things," says Frishkopf, who studies West African music for his Master's degree and spent time in Ghana researching the subject. "It shows people what this music is about, which automatically broadens their vision. It raises awareness about Africa through arts and it's like a window that brings people to whatever event we're at."

The West African Music Ensemble is one of more than 100 groups or individuals at the university being honoured by its Senate May 7 at the Faculty Club. The first-ever program recognizes community service by staff and students at the U of A. Their contributions are impressive: a survey of last year's efforts reveals that more

than 48,000 hours—or 5.58 years of volunteer time—were logged in 365 days.

"We all talk about the importance of the university to the community, but I think that the community is just as important to the university."

—Chancellor John Ferguson

Volunteer activities include improving literacy skills of inner-city students, lobbying the government in the areas of literature and publishing and providing sports opportunities for young Edmontonians.

The university justifiably acknowledges its proud teaching and research record, but there has been a gap of recognition for, and data about, community service, says

Chancellor John Ferguson.

"I can't say I was surprised at the total number of hours of community service," said Ferguson. "Having been involved in the university for a number of years, I have become well acquainted with the dedication and involvement of our staff, faculty and students. Having said that, 48,000 hours is an impressive number and I believe that we have only scratched the surface this year."

It is also appropriate, said Ferguson, that the Senate—a volunteer organization comprised of community representatives—recognizes the immense contributions of the volunteer efforts of the university.

"These are people that are really involved in the community, and I think



The West African Music Ensemble is one of many volunteer groups at the university.

their contributions are something that I, as chancellor, can be really proud of," he said. "We all talk about the importance of the university to the community, but I think that the community is just as important to the university."

For Frishkopf and his West African Music Ensemble, the community members aren't the only ones benefiting.

"We all do everything; we drum, we

sing, we dance and a lot of the people discover their talents after they join the group," he said, adding that student members come from a range of disciplines as well as from the community. "Drumming seems to represent peoples' struggles around the world. It gets spirits up and everyone, the drummers and the audience, can feel it. It's great for the students, too. They just blossom in this ensemble." ■



## Of all things Canadian...

*An interdisciplinary approach is what's needed most in Canadian Studies*

By Janine Brodie

As Chair of the department which has housed and supported the U of A Canadian Studies Program since the merger years, I feel compelled to respond to Professor Rod Macleod's letter to the editor (*Study of all things Canadian will thrive even without Canadian Studies, Folio, April 20, 2001*). In it, Professor Macleod claims that "the Canadian Studies issue is not well understood even within the university community." With this, I heartily agree. I am afraid, however, that rather than providing clarification, Professor Macleod's letter confuses what is at issue in the Canadian Studies debate on campus.

The letter begins with the self-evident and reassuring observation that academics studying Canada and courses with Canadian content permeate the humanities and social sciences and that putting "all these people together into one giant department" and calling it Canadian Studies "would be completely unmanageable." No one would disagree but surely Professor Macleod misses the point – namely the substantive and pedagogical differences among disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary programs.

Historians, political scientists, linguists, and archeologists teach about Canada but do so through a disciplinary lens. We certify graduates according to their critical capacity to feed and transform the dimensions of our past and pres-

ent through disciplinary paradigms. These paradigms reinforce specialized claims to knowledge within academia. More often than not, they open windows to networks and collaboration within disciplines rather than across them. Political scientists or historians study and teach about Canada with their disciplinary blinders focused squarely and protectively on their own disciplinary turf.

Some universities offer a multidisciplinary Canadian Studies program, which provides a degree when students successfully complete a specified number of courses offered by many different disciplines about Canada. Programs, such as ours, are fashioned with a passionate commitment to the interdisciplinary, which is something quite different from and richer than the multidisciplinary. Programs which promote debate across, around, and through disciplines are much more than the bureaucratic sum of selected disciplinary parts. Think of the obvious analogies on campus. Would any of us argue that Women's Studies or Native Studies should be eliminated because Political Science or History or English already teach courses on gender or aboriginal peoples?

I also must take issue with Professor Macleod's dubious claim that "a disproportionate percentage of the budget of the Faculty of Arts has been devoted to one kind of Canadian course at the expense of

others." If Professor Macleod is referring to disciplinary-based as opposed to interdisciplinary courses then he is dead on. To argue otherwise is simply to be very misinformed about the allocation of faculty resources and budgetary realities. The vast majority of Canadian content courses (well over 150, I've been told) on this campus are delivered through established disciplines. Why does Professor Macleod see a mere handful of interdisciplinary courses as existing "at the expense of" a near disciplinary monopoly? Do all of our interdisciplinary programs exist at the expense of the disciplines? Surely not.

Neither does the Canadian Studies program, with a 2.6 faculty complement, represent an extravagant allocation of resources. In 2000-2001, the ratio of majors, minors and honours students to full-time permanent Arts Faculty ranged from highs of 19:1 (Sociology) and 17:1 (Political Science) to 6:1 (History and Classics) to lower ratios elsewhere. For both Economics and Canadian Studies, the ratio was 10:1, meaning that there were 10 majors, minors and honours students per faculty member.

The data also do not support the letter's claim that there is "very little" demand for Canadian Studies courses. Admittedly a small program, its enrolments have held and, indeed, marginally increased in 1999-2001 while eight other departments/pro-

grams in Arts showed decreases, four by more than 10 per cent. It would be comforting to argue that the Canadian Studies program is being eliminated either because its classes are small, its faculty under-utilized or its enrolments sliding but such is not the case. Student demand for the program was robust over the past year despite widespread knowledge that an axe was looming over its head.

The debate about the ongoing viability of the Canadian Studies Program as a teaching unit at the U of A is not about student demand or about budgets although such claims are convenient. But, the cancellation of the program most certainly is about losses. We lose a program that is distinct from and more than any combination of disciplinary parts. We lose a space for faculty, visiting academics and students to give meaning to the Canadian and especially the Western Canadian experience in all of its delightful complexity in this era of intensifying continental and global integration. And, we lose the opportunities that our distinct interdisciplinary Canadian Studies window opened onto the international community.

My intent here is not to inflame the debate but let's be clear about what is at issue.

(Janine Brodie is Chair of the Department of Political Science and Canadian Studies Program at the University of Alberta.)■

## folio letters to the editor

### Why allow globalization to harm us?

An interdisciplinary Canadian Studies program is a thing of the past, according to the Dean of Arts, apparently because of an intriguing faculty-wide interest in "globalization." Ouch! (Tear gas stings an eye!) Simultaneously Faculté Saint-Jean invents what the Faculty of Arts destroys and finds Canadian Studies irresistible enough to establish a new interdisciplinary program linked with "17 or 18 universities in France that also have Canadian studies centres."

Meanwhile on the main campus, Professor Rob Macleod (History and Classics) writes that we should abandon autonomous interdisciplinary Canadian Studies and "devote our limited resources to the kind of Canadian content that students want." But what shapes student desires regarding Canadian Studies? And why do we assume that the demise of Canadian Studies is the result of a lack of interest by students and dedicated faculty?

I'm a Canadianist who is outside the program but I mourn the loss of the inde-

pendent Canadian Studies. In spite of the talented faculty who continued to devote their time and intelligence, the integrated promise and diverse focus of an autonomous Canadian Studies program seemed compromised years ago. Even in its early days on its own, the program was without adequate administrative support and survived only by risking the health and well-being of dedicated faculty like Professor Susan Jackel whose regrettable early retirement may have been partially a result of burn-out. During the 1990's nasty days of consolidation and merger, the maw of disciplinary machinery swallowed Canadian Studies and other Faculty of Arts interdisciplinary programs as they ran for cover, fearing they would be on the chopping block as free-standing units. Rationalized on the arbitrary basis of sharing photocopy machines and administrative budgets, some found happy new homes. Others hunkered down within insufficiently diverse disciplined quarters.

Some like "Science and Technology" met instant doom and simply vanished.

I mourn the loss of an independent Canadian Studies program where collaborative interdisciplinary knowledge can implicate—as in "fold in"—interdisciplinary program faculty while also calling on Canadian specialists in various disciplines from across campus and around the world. The autonomy of interdisciplinary programs provides opportunities for students to create informed communities that cannot emerge within a fractured and dispersed faculty of departments competing for students on the basis of discipline.

And what of the lost opportunities that might enhance the work of Canadianist students and faculty here and around the world? Federal funding for Canadian Studies programs, while shrinking, continues to flow to productive research and teaching units outside Canada. Like other colleagues who have been invited to international Canadian Studies centres, I'm

familiar with some of their challenges. A recent initiative by the Writers' Union of Canada to support various Canadian Studies centres around the world points to significant liaison and exchange work that a Canadian Studies program at the University of Alberta could provide.

Rather than resisting interdisciplinary programs like Canadian Studies, a practice that can unimaginatively reinforce limited kinds of knowledge production, the Faculty of Arts might work to consolidate and expand interdisciplinary Canadianist work here at the University of Alberta. Why not "think globally and act locally"? During this "post-nationalist" era of globalization we need a more inventive understanding of our own histories and cultures. Why use "globalization" as a masochistic cudgel to annihilate ourselves before it has had an opportunity to fully realize its own offensive weapons?

Janice Williamson,  
Professor, English

### Here's one way to sidestep privacy commissioner's ruling

The *Folio* report (*For your eyes only, Folio, April 20*) that students have been granted access to letters of reference about them is saddening.

Few faculty members will be willing to write letters of reference with any negative statements or intimations when they know that by doing so they are likely to face legal actions for having expressed their true evaluation of some students. Yet to

write "choosing your words carefully," as advocated by some sources in the *Folio* article, really means 'do not express any honest negative opinions you may have regarding students when you are asked to write letters of reference for them.'

In the hundreds of letters of reference I have written regarding students I have always given a forthright, honest expression of my evaluation. But my letters of

reference always conclude with a statement to the effect: "The foregoing is my personal evaluation of the student concern; and others may disagree with my opinions." I did not write letters of reference of any other type.

For those who share my view on this ethical matter there is a relatively easy way to cope with the new regulations. Have a lawyer prepare an appropriately

legal statement somewhat as follows:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, a student at the University of Alberta, have asked Professor \_\_\_\_\_ to write a letter of reference on my behalf. I hereby certify that neither I nor any agent of mine will seek by any means to obtain or see any letter of reference that Professor \_\_\_\_\_ writes at my request on my behalf."

C.F. Bentley, O.C.  
Professor Emeritus of Soil Science



# What holds up the roof of the world?

Researcher discovers unique underground 'waterbed'

By Phoebe Dey

It has often been called "the roof of the world" for its vast, elevated plateau—probably the highest and the largest on Earth. For as long as scientists have been studying Tibet, they have been puzzled by exactly how its plateau came to be so immense and raised. A University of Alberta physicist has helped to solve part of that age-old mystery.

"What we found is that the mid-crust is like a big waterbed," said Dr. Martyn Unsworth from the Department of Physics. "That provides an explanation for how the whole of Tibet could possibly rise up over millions and millions of years."

After three years of research, Unsworth and a team of scientists from China and the U.S. found that the plateau is supported by a bed of hot, molten rock. The principle behind the discovery is that molten rocks are less dense than cold rocks and they rise up slowly, similar to the way a hot-air balloon works.

Results of the study appear in the current edition of the internationally renowned journal *Science*.

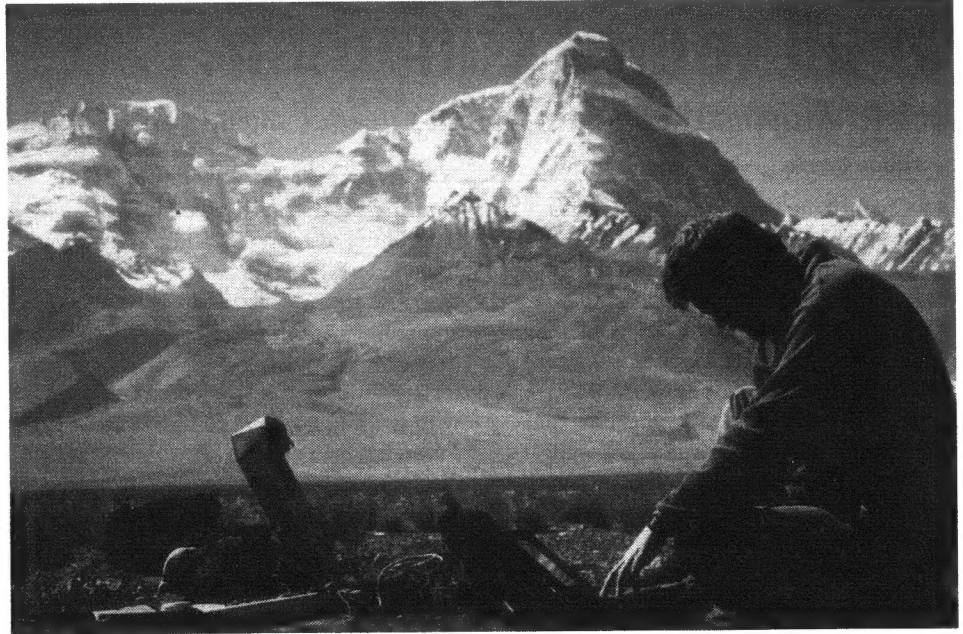
Many theories have been proposed to explain the unusual thickness of the

plateau, which formed after India rammed into Asia approximately 40 or 50 million years ago. Bordered on its southern edge by the majestic Himalayan mountains, the plateau's crust doubles the average 30–35 km thickness found the world over. Recently, computer simulations have been made to understand what the crust might look like. Unsworth's new research will help fill in some of the blanks.

It has taken this long to discover the fluid because Tibet was closed to foreign access until the 1980s. At that time, French scientists first collaborated with Chinese scientists to study the plateau. Since then, the instruments used to measure the electric and magnetic fields have advanced, said Unsworth. His own team used low-frequency radio waves to detect the molten rock.

"With earth sciences, you can study processes that are active today and see how it affected the development of the continents. It's sort of like detective work, putting it all together," said Unsworth who will return to Tibet soon to learn more about the plateau.

"Tibet is the best example of what



Dwarfed by the Himalaya Mountains, Dr. Martyn Unsworth is helping to solve a long-standing geographical puzzle.

happens when two continents collide. It's an obvious, natural laboratory to study...studies like ours are important to

give firm observations that can say which of the computer models might be correct." ■

## Digging up the family history

National Geographic funds researcher's quest for snake fossils

By Ryan Smith

Dr. Michael Caldwell is off to Argentina for four weeks to try to answer the age-old question: "Do snakes have armpits?" This isn't how Caldwell presented his grant application to the National Geographic Society, which is funding his trip, but the question is related to a number of the mysteries he and his team will tackle in their quest to trace the evolution of the *squamate* order of reptiles.

"We're going down to prospect for 85 million-year-old snake fossils, and hopefully lizard fossils, too, simply because the story of

"We're going down to prospect for 85 million-year-old snake fossils, and hopefully lizard fossils, too, simply because the story of squamate evolution is poorly known—we still don't know who exactly is related to who—and we're trying to put together some of the missing pieces of the puzzle."

—Dr. Michael Caldwell

squamate evolution is poorly known—we still don't know who exactly is related to who—and we're trying to put together some of the missing pieces of the puzzle," said Caldwell, a joint professor of biological sciences and earth and atmospheric sciences at the University of Alberta.

It won't be Caldwell's first visit to the Pantagonia area of Argentina, a region where many "spectacular" snake fossils have been found, Caldwell said. The quantity and quality of the fossils have been impressive, so much so that

Caldwell said he and his Argentinian colleagues—Drs. Jorge Calvo and Adriana Albino—have already discovered enough fossils to produce "five or six papers" when they get the time to write them.

"Usually from the Cretaceous period you just get a vertebrate or two, but we've had good success in Argentina—each new fossil often adds a new anatomical part, or it is a more complete example of a species than we've ever had before," he said.

Caldwell is working on "a very exciting project," said Dr. Stephen Cumaa, head of paleobiology at the Canadian Museum of Nature. "This is a hot area of research now—the antiquity and relationships of snakes and their possible relations to marine lizards—and [Caldwell] has a lot to offer. He is highly regarded here, and the U of A is certainly lucky to have him."

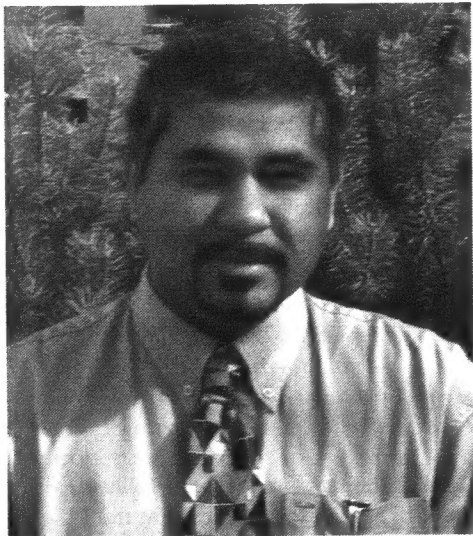
Caldwell, who still works as a research associate with the Canadian Museum of Nature, will be joined in Argentina by three others from the U of A: biological sciences grad student Stephanie Pierce, paleontology preparator Allan Lindoe, and videographer and photographer Amber Nicholson, who works in Career and Placement Services.

Caldwell doesn't expect his research project to be featured in the National Geographic magazine because the society funds many studies, but he'd be happy if he were able to find anything that would "modify the hypotheses that are already out there, or lead us to form new ones. If we were able to find an 85 million-year-old lizard fossil in South America that would be like, I don't know, finding a dodo that's still alive." ■

## Building better butter

Researcher studies fat networks to change texture of foods

By Phoebe Dey



Dr. Suresh Narine joined the U of A as part of a push by the provincial government to expand Alberta's agri-food industry.

Most people know that frustrating moment when they take butter out of the fridge and it's so hard it cuts holes in bread. A solution to this annoying problem may be on its way soon, however, as one

of the newest faculty members at the University of Alberta is looking for a way to soften cold butter.

Dr. Suresh Narine uses the principles of materials physics to study the structure and texture of foods. He researches the fat networks in food so scientists can change the texture of products like chocolate, cream cheese and butter without altering their chemical composition.

"Among other things, this research will [also] allow us to learn how to make things like polymers, plastics, adhesives and lubricants from agricultural products," said Narine, who received his PhD from the University of Guelph. "One example is making plastic from canola oil."

Given the fact that petroleum prices have skyrocketed and most polymers in use are made from petroleum products, such research couldn't be more timely. As well, many of the polymers made from agricultural sources are biodegradable, and therefore less destructive to the environment.

Narine recently joined the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the U of A and is in the process of establishing the Agri-Food Materials Science Centre of Excellence on campus. He has filled the first of four research chair positions created in the department by a \$3-million investment from AVAC Ltd., a private, not-for-profit company, whose mandate is to expand Alberta's agri-value industry by facilitating the connection of knowledge and investment with science and enterprise.

Before coming to the U of A, Narine worked as a research scientist in New Jersey for M&M Mars, the confectionery giant that makes chocolate bars such as Snickers and Mars. His projects with the company ranged from creating edible chocolate business cards to making chocolate gifts featuring high-resolution photographs of the giver. One of Narine's latest undertakings is figuring out how to prevent candies from cracking or breaking before they reach the consumer.

"With something like hard candy, for

example, you might not think it's of much importance if these candies are breaking," said Narine. "But the industry is losing millions of dollars when that happens. What we are trying to do is understand how to make a structure that doesn't break, and once we do we can control it."

Since the provincial government would like to see Alberta's agri-food industry more than double in size from \$7 billion to \$20 billion by 2010, Narine's arrival at the university is important, said Dr. John Kennelly, chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science.

"Dr. Narine is bringing a very particular level of expertise in materials, particularly in how they behave in different circumstances when you are producing and processing new products," said Kennelly. "That kind of expertise is critical to allow people to develop new products."

"He is also important to a growing value-added food sector and the training of highly educated people at the university who would be going out to work in that industry. He brings a lot to the university." ■



# Geology profs helped shape province's fortunes

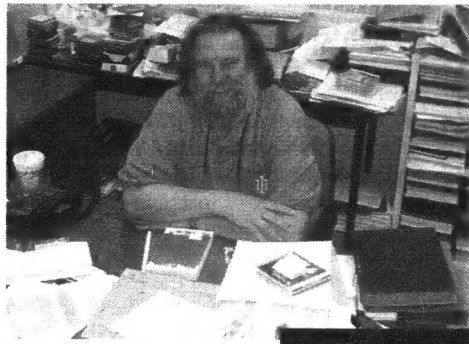
Department paid tribute to historic contributions

By Richard Cairney

An autumn edition of the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* contains a research paper that is of interest for a couple of reasons. First, it describes newly discovered 110 million-year-old microscopic fossils which could aid geologists in locating new oil reserves. Secondly, one of the researchers and co-authors of the paper is 84-year-old Charles Stelck, a geology professor emeritus at the University of Alberta's department of earth and atmospheric sciences.

"There are very few people in the world who can do the kind of work he does," George Pemberton, a geology professor, says of Stelck. "In fact, there are very few people in the world who are being trained to do what Charlie does."

Valuing the work of his predecessors, Pemberton last year assigned graduate students to compile a history of the geology department, formed in 1912 by John Allan, Percival Warren and Ralph Rutherford. The resulting poster presentation and appreciation night held for the professors emeriti amounted to a who's



Professor George Pemberton values the enormous contributions made by the geology department's professors emeriti, such as Charles Stelck (far right inset). Their efforts led to the discovery of Canada's largest pool of oil.

who in geology—and by association the economy—in Alberta.

"We just had a budget with about a \$10.5 billion surplus, and that is the direct result of those emeriti and the work they did," Pemberton says of the university's

involvement in the oil and gas industries.

Stelck's own students, for example, were responsible for two of the most important oil finds in Canada: work by geologist Doug Layer resulted in the discovery of oil at Devon (Leduc No. 1) a half-century ago, sparking Alberta's oil rush. Later, former students Arnie Nielsen and Tony Mason discovered the Pembina oil field—the largest pool of oil in Canada.

Nielsen later went on to become president of Mobil Oil.

"He was a student in micropaleontology," says Stelck. "But he figured the oil industry paid better—and I agreed with him."

The history of the department pulled together by graduate students presents some interesting stories of the department's three founders and its 11 professors emeriti: their combined efforts represent more than 600 years of service to the U of A; together they graduated 240 masters students and 82 PhDs. Each of the professors

represents an interesting story. Dr. Jiri Krupicka, for example, spent more than 10 years—from 1950 to 1963—as a political prisoner in Czechoslovakia. Half of his sentence was spent working in a uranium mine. In 1968, when Russian tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia, Krupicka and his family fled the country. He joined the U of A later that year.

So is anyone going to take those biographies and turn them into a book?

"Oh, yeah—I'm going to do that," says Pemberton.

If he ever gets time, that is. These days he's busy with, among other things, writing another paper with Professor Stelck. "On this one, we're doing work on fossils he collected before I was even born," Pemberton says. "He collected them in 1946, I was born in '48, and these things go back about 120 million years."

Maybe after that, Pemberton will get around to the book. "I generally assign an historical project to my students because it is important that you know something of the history of your field. I think this is something that really needs to be done." ■

## Tsui test provides insurance in treating pain

New technique dramatically improves success rate

By Phoebe Dey

After 19 years of university, Dr. Ban Tsui's studies have paid off. The University of Alberta anesthesiologist has developed an innovative way of controlling pain—a technique that dramatically improves the recovery period for children after surgery.

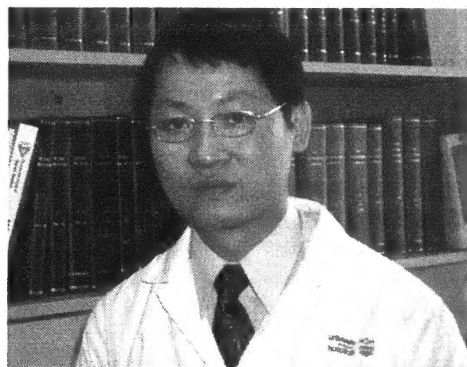
Combining his medical knowledge with his background in electrical engineering—a field in which he has a diploma to go with his master's degree in science, a pharmacy degree, a medical degree and a certificate in acupuncture—Tsui found a more accurate way to give an epidural to a child. In the past, when doctors would deliver local anesthetics and pain drugs to reduce pain following surgery, it was difficult to tell if they had the epidural catheter in the right place. And with babies or infants, doctors only have one chance—during surgery when a patient is perfectly still—to get it right.

"When I was first a resident, we would do epidurals blindly," said Tsui, who received all of his degrees from Dalhousie University before coming to the University of Alberta for his specialty training in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain

Medicine. "I thought, 'this is the 21st century, there must be a better way to do it.'"

Tsui found the way. The procedure, now called the Tsui test, involves sending a mild electrical current through the catheter to stimulate the nerves. If a doctor wants to block pain in an arm, for example, the catheter is in the proper place if the arm twitches after the current is released. Previously, a doctor needed to use an X-ray, which is time-consuming during surgery, to know if the catheter had been placed in the right spot. The new technique has changed the way anesthesiologists work, said Dr. Barry Finegan, chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the U of A.

"This is a huge advance in the management of pain following surgery," said Finegan, adding that the test is being used in other areas as well, including on 22-year-old Amie Gray, who recently received a double-lung transplant at the University Hospital. "Epidurals have been used for a number of years, particularly for women during child birth, but those are people who can tell us if you were successful in



Dr. Ban Tsui has developed a more effective way to control post-operative pain.

stopping pain. It was hit-and-miss with children.

"The Tsui test provides physical evidence that we're hitting the right spot and the effects are immeasurable. The children now don't need to be put on a respirator, most don't need to go to the ICU [Intensive Care Unit], it's cost-saving and there is a tremendous reduction of pain for these children," said Finegan.

Because of the high failure rate of using an epidural without the Tsui test,

doctors had been using morphine to control pain after surgery. But for many children, morphine causes poor breathing, among other side effects, and they would often end up on a ventilator in the ICU.

The test, which Tsui has patented and licenced to an American company, has improved the success rate to better than 90 per cent and has been used on more than 250 infants and children at the University Hospital's Stollery Centre. In one day recently, it was used on four children—one as young as four days old who had a tumour removed from his stomach. Also recently, a three-year-old boy who had a large tumour removed from his kidney was up and playing video games two days after surgery, leaving the hospital four days later, said Tsui, adding that lower doses of drugs are used to control the pain.

"This method also means fewer children in ICU," said Tsui. "A couple of weeks ago, because we didn't send one of our patients to ICU, it freed up a bed for a child who needed open-heart surgery. It has changed the way we do things completely." ■

## Prof earns praise for work with Aboriginals

By Richard Cairney

A former chair and associate dean of the University of Alberta's Department of Anthropology has been awarded the prestigious Weaver-Tremblay Award for his contributions to applied anthropology.

Michael Asch will receive the award, the Canadian Anthropology Society conference in Montreal this week. Named after two of Canada's best-known applied anthropologists, Marc-Adelard Tremblay and the late Sally Weaver, the award is granted only upon the nomination of a particularly worthy candidate.

Asch has been a "prominent figure on the Canadian anthropology scene" for three decades, according to James Waldram, chair of the award's selection committee.

Asch's work has focused on land use, resource development and the effects of industrialization in the north, subjects "which brought him to consider more directly issues such as Aboriginal rights and the place of indigenous peoples within the state," Waldram says. Asch's work has been published extensively. He is author of the groundbreaking book *Home*

and Native Land: Aboriginal Rights and the Canadian Constitution, and *Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Canadian Law*.

Asch will deliver an address in keeping with his work in anthropology, entitled *Indigenous Self Determination in Applied Anthropology: Finding a Place to Stand*. He'll discuss ways that applied anthropologists can participate in public debates rather than simply offering technical advice.

"What I'm interested in is what is an appropriate and respectful way to take part in this conversation taking place between Canada and First Nations in the relationship we are establishing," Asch said.

The problem for anthropologists is that "we have a history of taking over and doing all the talking," he said. "The way I do it is, there are different sides but the sides are not the government and First Nations, the sides are different approaches...the idea is to avoid the idea that you have to choose sides—that is what really takes away all of our voices from this conversation."

But that's easier said than done.

Government, Asch admits, often uses a "take-it-or-leave-it approach" and though issues First Nations deal with are complex, the media tends to present them in a black-and-white manner. If you can't change the way government approaches talks and if you can't change the way the media reports events—and therefore the way it contributes to the national dialogue—what can be done to move from entrenched, bitter negotiations to conversation and agreement?

To answer the question, Asch has looked to philosophers and discusses different ways of approaching people: you can look at them as subjects to be studied or you can see them as people you'd like to work with. Asch says it's possible to find people interested in the latter approach, on either side of the government/First Nations divide.

"You find a group of people who want to be encouraged to work that way and you try to work with them, using your technical expertise to encourage solutions, that might persuade the people who are

thinking in terms of black and white that there is another way of looking at things."

Asch knows what he's talking about. During the 1970s he gave testimony to the Berger Commission on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline; and he has spent time working with the Dene Nation as well as federal provincial and territorial governments.

He credits not only his experience working with the Dene during the early 1970s for his approach to applied anthropology, but also his upbringing. Asch's father, Moses, founded the Folkways record label, recording not big-name stars but lesser-known folk singers and story tellers. His father's influence, and the influence of those artists whose work he recorded, has been expressed in Asch's work.

"It's hardly a stretch to say that. In fact it is right on the money the values my father had in putting that crazy company together working with people and providing opportunities for people to communicate with the larger world or a different world was very much part of my experience growing up." ■



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## Medicine loses a passionate teacher

Overcame amnesia to learn science a second time

By Dr. A. Jones, Dr. H. Pabst

William Taylor, 'Bill' to his many friends, died April 2. Bill had four great affections: His family, his work as a teacher, his profession as a pediatrician, and his avocation as a mountain hiker. To all who knew him, as a close friend or as a student, Bill Taylor was unforgettable. Students at all levels loved his style of teaching—precise, direct, and exact—delivered in a hint of a Scottish brogue.

Bill graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1945, receiving the Gold Medal in Medicine, and after further training, received his English, Canadian and American specialist certificates in Pediatrics. He finished his training in Winnipeg in 1953, was married to Susan, later having three sons, and went into private practice. He was picked early as an academic teacher by the University of Winnipeg. In 1957, he followed Dr. Ken Martin to Edmonton to become the second full-time pediatrician at the University of Alberta, Ken's right hand man and the major generalist pediatrician in the department. He established the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at University Hospital and quickly became aware of the serious problems with perinatal mortality in the province. By 1970, he had 25 papers published on a wide variety of subjects related to general and specialty pediatrics. He had 57 publications and more than 50 presentations given across the world.

His passion for teaching extended to the science of measuring the results of teaching, which led to his delving deeply into the science of examination questions and of the examination systems themselves. He was instrumental in setting up the first Canadian computer-based examinations for graduating physicians the 'Q4', for developing Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) in Pediatrics using PLATO computer as the base, and he worked extensively in developing the Objective Structured Clinical Examination. He became the assistant director of the R.S. McLaughlin Examination and Research Centre in Edmonton and director of studies in medical education at the U of A.

During a sabbatical visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1978, disaster struck in the form of a coal truck on a narrow mountain road. Bill's injuries were immense, and his

convalescence prolonged. Susan escaped with lesser injuries and was able to help with his prolonged ICU care in Dunedin, and later in Edmonton. Being totally amnesic not only for the accident, but for all his previous pediatric knowledge, he retrained his mind, rebuilt his memory, filling all the blank pages again with the current knowledge of pediatrics, as well as thousands of lines of poetry. Every day, Bill was to be seen walking his neighbourhood to regain his strength while memorizing his beloved poetry and medicine. His poetry became a source of wonder and entertainment for his hiking companions. Along a dusty trail, or around a campfire, Bill could entertain for hours, and loved every moment of it.

Bill had developed his love of mountain walking in his childhood home of Scotland. Bill's constant backpack luggage on his hikes was a) a flask of Scotch, single malt preferred, b) an aspirin to take at noon, and c) his camera. While the former allowed the afternoon portion of the hike to be attacked with renewed gusto, the camera allowed summer hiking to be enjoyed again during the long winter evenings at home as he brought out his art gear and painted his favorite scenes. In addition, with his love of the mountains, he researched the early history of the exploration of the Rockies and the early guides and mountaineers. This resulted in a close association with the Jasper Historical Society as well as Canadian and British Alpine Clubs, and three published books. Bill was the finest companion, never upset, never at a loss, always with a way to fix something, always able to assist someone half his age to keep going, to make it to camp, and to feel proud that they had succeeded. This inner calm on the hiking trail extended to his management of students on the wards, colleagues on his committees, parents and children as his patients, his family and friends.

Bill will always be with us, in memories, photographs, anecdotes, and knowledge learned and passed on. In addition, his family and the Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta have endowed a Scholarship in his name to fund residents in the program to travel to continuing medical education opportunities during their training. ■

## ads

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Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. Fax 492-2997 or e-mail at cora.doucette@ualberta.ca .

## FACULTY OF ARTS

May 10, 3:30 p.m.  
Peter Elbow, a world-renowned scholar in the field of writing and composition, presents a special lecture, "What's Central in the Act of Writing?" Room L-1 Humanities Centre.

May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Dr. Andrew Gow, History and Classics, public lecture "Jewish Shock-Troops of the Apocalypse." McDougall United Church, 10025 – 101 Street.

May 11, 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Patricia O'Connell Killen (Pacific Lutheran University) offers public lecture, "Patterns from the Past, Prospects for the Future: Twenty-First Century Religious Geography in the Pacific Northwest." Convocation Hall, 225 Arts Building.

May 12, 11:00 a.m. to noon.  
Paul G. Mosca, University of British Columbia, offers public lecture, "Child Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East: Carthage and Ancient Israel." Room L-1 Humanities Centre.

May 12, 8:00 p.m.  
Colleen McDannell, University of Utah, presents public lecture, "Material Christianity." Banquet Room, Lister Hall.

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

May 23, 4:30 p.m.  
Stephen J. O'Brien, "The genes that limit AIDS." Room M-149, Biological Sciences Building.

## DEPARTMENT OF CELL BIOLOGY

May 7, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Dr. Dale Laird, associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Western Ontario, "Mechanisms and dynamics of gap junction formation and removal." Seminar Room 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, PETER ELBOW TALK AND WORKSHOPS

May 10, 3:30 p.m.  
Topic: "What's Central in the Act of Writing?" Room L-1 Humanities Centre.

May 11, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Topic: "Breathing Life into the Text: Using Performance and Voice to Teach Literature Collaboratively." Room L-1 Humanities Centre.

May 11, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Topic: "High Stakes and Low Stakes in Assigning and Responding to Student Writing." Room L-1 Humanities Centre. Workshop space is limited. Please sign up by e-mailing: betsy.sargent@ualberta.ca

## DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL GENETICS AND ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

May 16, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  
Medical Genetics Rounds. Dr. Cairine Logan, University of Calgary, "Specification of neuronal phenotype and connectivity by Tlx transcription factors." Room 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

May 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Dr. Gautam Chaudhuri, Departments of Pharmacology and Obstetrics, University of California, Los Angeles, "Estrogens and Atherosclerosis: From the Laboratory to the Clinic." Room 9-68 Medical Sciences Building.

## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

May 11, 3:00 p.m.  
Dr. Stephen Archer, Division of Cardiology, Departments of Physiology and Medicine. Title: "Restoration of K+ channel function and expression: A potential new treatment of pulmonary hypertension." Room 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

May 18, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.  
Dr. Pim Martens, Maastricht University, The Netherlands and Dr. Kristie Ebi, Electric Power Research Institute, California, on "Climate Change and Human Health." Room 2-115, Clinical Sciences Building. Enquiries: Dr. Colin L. Soskolne, 492-6013.

## folio letters to the editor

Folio welcomes letters to the editor. Send your thoughts and opinions via e-mail to richard.cairney@ualberta.ca, fax at 492-2997, or by mail to Folio, Office of Public Affairs, 400 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, accuracy and length.

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VISITING MEXICAN PROFESSOR and family (4 persons) seek furnished accommodations near U of A for six weeks in July/August. Contact: arturo.borja@cide.edu or fred.judson@ualberta.ca

AVAILABLE FOR HOUSESITTING. Reliable mature. Contact jenniferhughes@home.com

EXPERIENCED HOUSESITTER. U of A graduate student, looking for place to stay. Starting end of August, willing to take pets. References available. Amie, 464-2645, achomik@hotmail.com

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## The Eric Geddes/Alberta Heritage Foundation For Medical Research

### Research Fellowship in Health Organization Studies

The Eric Geddes/AHFMR Research Fellowship in Health Organization Studies will enable highly qualified doctoral graduates to conduct research related to the organization and function of the health system. Currently a research group within the Department of Strategic Management and Organization in the School of Business is studying the regionalization of the Alberta health system from an organizational change perspective. Particular areas being studied are organizational change in primary care and continuing care, the use of advanced nurse practitioners and overall changes in the structure and functioning of regions. Candidates will have a demonstrated ability to conduct research independently, experience in conducting field-based research, and a good understanding of health care organization. They will work under the direction of Professor Bob Hinings and Dr. Karen Golden-Biddle in establishing their particular aspects of the research.

Candidates for this award must have a doctoral degree from a recognized institution and be in an appropriate field of study. This is a competitive award intended to enable highly qualified doctoral graduates to pursue advanced research in health organization studies. The salary for this position will be in the range of \$30,000 - \$40,000 (Canadian dollars). The Fellowship may be held for up to three years.

Letters of application for the position, together with a current Curriculum Vitae should be sent to:

Dr. Michael B Percy  
Stanley A Milner Professor and Dean  
School of Business  
University of Alberta

Applications must be received by the close of business (4:00 pm) on Wednesday May 23, 2001. An Advisory Committee will consider all applications in competition.

### For further details of these positions, please contact

Professor Bob Hinings,  
Ph: 780-492-2801, [chinings@ualberta.ca](mailto:chinings@ualberta.ca); or  
Dr. Karen Golden-Biddle,  
Ph: 780-492-8901,  
[Karen.Golden-Biddle@ualberta.ca](mailto:Karen.Golden-Biddle@ualberta.ca)



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## ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS NEEDED!

The terms of office of a number of faculty and support staff members serving on GFC standing committees, and on committees to which GFC elects members, will expire on June 30, 2001. The GFC Nominating Committee is seeking academic and support staff members to fill the following vacancies for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2001.

- ▶ **ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC) - 1 faculty member who is a member of GFC; 1 Dean; and 1 Department Chair** • 2:00 pm/2nd & 4th Wednesdays. GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.
- ▶ **COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS, ACADEMIC STANDING AND TRANSFER (CAAST) - 2 faculty members** • 9:00 am/3rd Thursday. Responsible for making recommendations and providing advice to GFC and APC on undergraduate admissions, academic standing, and transfer policies.
- ▶ **CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC) - 2 faculty or support staff members, 1 of whom has legal training** • 9:30 am/4th Thursday. Reviews Code of Student Behavior, Code of Applicant Behavior and Residence Community Standards.
- ▶ **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC) - 2 faculty members** • 8:30 am/3rd Friday. Faculty members must NOT be from the Faculties of Arts or Engineering or Science.
- ▶ **TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE (TLC) - 2 faculty members** • 1:00 pm/2nd Tuesday. Works to promote excellence in teaching and learning and an optimal learning environment for students.
- ▶ **UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC) - 1 faculty member** • There are no set meeting times. Meetings are held approximately three times each year. Recommend new awards for undergraduate students, including criteria for selection and eligibility.
- ▶ **UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC) - 1 faculty member** • There are no set meeting times. Meetings are held approximately three times per year. Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and a Teaching Unit Award. Faculty members must NOT be from the Faculties of Arts, Business or Rehabilitation Medicine.
- ▶ **DEPARTMENT CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEES - 5 faculty members** • Members are chosen in rotation from a panel of 15 to serve on Department Chair selection committees.

All nominations, or expressions of interest, should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae or brief biographical sketch and directed to Ms G Perry, Assistant Secretary to GFC, 2-5 University Hall (492-1937; email: gay.perry@ualberta.ca), by **Tuesday, May 15, 2001.**

# positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).

The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons.

## ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

The Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS) at the University of Alberta invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor position in Canola Breeding and Biotechnology as part of a major development of its production efficiency and sustainability research and teaching capabilities. Applicants must have a PhD in Plant Breeding or a related discipline. Postdoctoral experience is desirable. The successful candidate will be expected to teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and supervise M.Sc. and PhD students. The appointee will attract major external funding in support of a world-class research and teaching program already in place. Excellent communication skills, a demonstrated ability to conduct independent research, a desire to excel in undergraduate teaching and graduate student supervision, and a strong commitment to technology transfer are essential.

The successful candidate will contribute to the department's mission "to achieve excellence in teaching and research in efficient and sustainable production, processing and utilization of safe and nutritious food to promote health" and will also contribute to the research goals of the University of Alberta's Food for Health program.

The successful candidate is expected to collaborate with scientists at the University of Alberta (www.ualberta.ca), Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (www.agric.gov.ab.ca), Alberta Research Council (www.arc.gov.ab.ca), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (www.agr.ca) and with industry. The canola breeding program already has a close collaboration with one industry partner to ensure timely marketing of new cultivars. The University of Alberta has excellent research facilities and equipment, including a Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Centre, numerous specialized analytical laboratories, modern greenhouses and controlled-environment facilities, and excellent facilities for field studies. The department of AFNS is also currently undertaking a major infrastructure upgrading program with the support of industry and government which will provide state-of-the-art research facilities to support the four major research foci of Production Efficiency and Sustainability, Agri-Food Technology, Nutrition and Health, and Biotechnology.

Applications, including a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vitae, and the name of three referees should be sent to Dr. John Kennelly, Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2P5. Closing date for applications is July 31, 2001. For further information on this position contact Dr. Kennelly at (780) 492-2131 / (780) 492-4265 (fax), email chair@afns.ualberta.ca or visit our web site at www.afns.ualberta.ca.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. If suitable Canadian citizens cannot be found, other individuals will be considered.

## EDPS 310 (ELEMENTARY) CO-ORDINATOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

The Department of Educational Policy Studies is seeking an individual for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2001 to co-ordinate and teach EDPS 310 (Elementary) "Managing the Learning Environment". This is a compulsory course for students pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree with enrolments in the elementary route in excess of 600 students per year and up to 15 instructors.

The successful applicant would be required to:

During June, July, and August, redevelop the existing course outline, course materials, and textbook in consultation with the Coordinator of EDPS 310 (Secondary) and previous Co-ordinators of EDPS 310 (Elementary); co-ordinate course requirements for all elementary sections including the final examination to ensure a common standard and curriculum across sections; meet with instructors assigned to teach elementary sections of EDPS 310 prior to and during Fall and Winter Terms in order to provide an orientation and to discuss instructional issues, grading, student concerns, etc.; co-ordinate guest lecturers; teach one section of EDPS 310 (Elementary) during each of the Fall and Winter Terms.

Applicants must have teaching experience in a primary/elementary setting and at the university level. Preference will be given to applicants who have a doctorate degree and administrative experience.

This is a part-time appointment for the period June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2002 with a possibility of renewal of up to two, one-year periods. The salary range is \$26,831 to \$36,547 depending upon qualifications and experience. Please submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to:

Dr. S. Norris, Chair  
Educational Policy Studies  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB. T6G 2G6

Three letters of reference must also be sent directly to the Chair at the above address. Deadline for letter, curriculum vitae, and all three reference letters is: May 15, 2001.

In accordance with the Sessionals and Other Temporary Academic Staff Agreement, those individuals who served as part-time temporary teaching staff in 2000-2001 and whose evaluations are satisfactory or better will receive full consideration along with recent graduates from the department, postdoctoral fellows, and persons holding visiting appointments in the department.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta invites applicants for the position of Administrative Professional Officer (APO).

Reporting to the department chair, this APO position is responsible for providing a wide range of support in administrative matters, including budget planning. Particular duties include assistance and preparation of new initiatives and funding proposals, advisement of undergraduate and graduate students, involvement with teaching assistant and course assignments, in addition to co-ordination of various student activities.

Applicants for this challenging and rewarding position should have: a university degree, preferably in engineering or science, several years of relevant experience, strong interpersonal and organizational skills, demonstrated competence in written and oral communication. Additional desirable attributes include knowledge of the engineering program at the University of Alberta, an understanding of university policies and procedures (academic, financial and human resources), experience as an APO or equivalent position.

This Administrative Professional Officer position has a salary range from \$41,243 to \$65,295 to commensurate with qualifications and experience. The application deadline for this competition is May 11, 2001, and applications including a résumé and names of three references should be sent in confidence to:

Dr. J.D. Dale  
Acting Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB  
Canada T6G 2G8

## DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FACULTY OF NURSING

The Faculty of Nursing has an immediate opening for a Director of Research Planning and Development. Reporting to the associate dean, research, partnerships and faculty development, the director is responsible for the leadership and support of research in the faculty. Specific responsibilities include: developing and implementing a research management plan; identifying developmental needs, maintaining current information relating to research funding opportunities, and implementing a plan to support all aspects of the research process including research grant submissions, the conduct of research, and the dissemination of research outcomes.

Preferred candidates will hold a PhD in Nursing or a related discipline, and demonstrate knowledge of the academic research and funding process. The combination of a master's degree and experience in health sciences research or program management will also be considered. Leadership and organizational management skills, as well as excellent skills in both written and oral communication, problem solving, decision-making, and team building are important attributes.

This position will be offered as a tenure-track appointment for the PhD qualified applicant and would suit career academics interested in moving into, or gaining experience in, higher education management. It may also be offered as a two-year academic contract position with a strong possibility of renewal for applicants with a master's degree. Successful applicants will receive a competitive salary commensurate with their experience and an excellent benefits plan.

Please forward your résumé by May 31, 2001 to







# THE Big Picture

*BFA grad exhibit fills gallery with more than painted pictures*

By Gilbert A. Bouchard

*Edith Chiu's detailed piece You and I keeps viewers fully engaged; Dr Jetske Sybesma (inset) mingles with Marilyn Manson and Britney Spears, as portrayed by Adam Roberts.*

Compared to the hustle of the Fine Arts Building Gallery as FAB manager Blair Brennan and staff mount the BFA Graduation Exhibit on this second to last Monday in April, the artists' cavernous studio space in the building's south-east corner is eerily quiet.

Not surprising. It's in-between time: classes are over, final portfolios have just been completed and students are taking a break before the opening of their final show.

As it is, the studios seem to be in a state of suspended animation, chock-a-block with work—drawings, paintings, large steel sculptures and even one elaborate installation—as Tiffany Smith, president of the 23-student Bachelor of Fine Arts 2001 Grad Society, pops down from the gallery to fetch two small canvases.

"It's maudlin-sad," Smith jokes, when asked how she's handling the end of her undergraduate studies and the dissolving of her tight-knit class. "It's not only been a really great place to make really good friends, you learn as much from other students as from teachers in this kind of supportive atmosphere."

"Mind you, we've also been seeing this coming since January and have been gearing up for the break," says the 21-year-old Edmonton-based student, who's contemplating continuing her studies with a Masters Degree in Fine Arts. "Personally I'm looking forward to a new beginning."

"We insist that they develop the visual fundamentals, that critical eye, as well as the ability to think in a critical fashion. That's how you get the highest possible quality work."

Dr. Jetske Sybesma

Making her way back to the bustling gallery, Smith props up the two smaller canvases next to the three larger sister self-portraits. Calling this a series of "memory paintings," Smith has been developing a particularly playful post-modern discourse. Her starting point is a series of photos of herself as a child, which she lifted from her mother's photo albums. Smith then juxtaposes these images with paintings based on brand-new photographs she's taken of herself mimicking the earlier pose (for example, one pair of works has Smith recreating a shot of herself—lunch kit in hand—off to her first day in school).

In effect, she's riffing off of the near-universal tropes of family photography in her re-contextualized images. "It's really cathartic work," she notes with a sly smile, underlining the way the historic paintings are painted in an emotionally hotter red

field, while the contemporary paintings are done in a cooler blue field. "I paint best when I'm in a very bad mood."

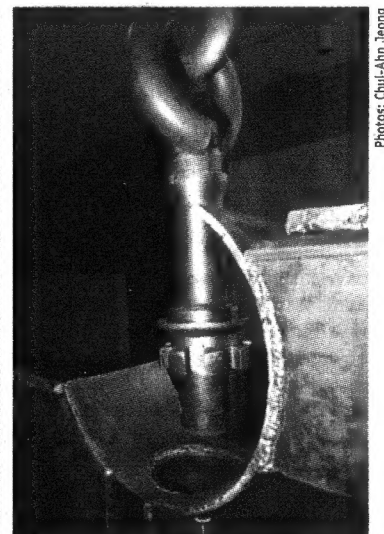
Bad mood or not, Dr. Jetske Sybesma, Chair of the U of A's Department of Art and Design, is visibly pleased with a hard-earned and layered sophistication expressed—both stylistic and in the fundamentals of craft—in both Smith's work and all the pieces chosen for this annual year-end exhibit.

"We insist that they develop the visual fundamentals, that critical eye, as well as the ability to think in a critical fashion," Sybesma says. "That's how you get the highest possible quality work."

The gallery is cluttered, awash in a mish-mash of work awaiting hanging or a pedestal for display.

"It's so much more than just painting a pretty picture," Smith says, as she glances back one more time at her assembled works. "In one of my drama classes we called it making an offer—making that first mark without second guessing."

Remaining on display until May 13, the exhibit does, indeed, represent change for the students. "You just have to make the jump," the newly minted Class of 2001 BFA student adds, as she steps off of the Fine Arts Building portico into the bright spring sunlight. ■



BFA grad Tiffany Smith shows off her memory paintings (left); Paul Jesse George Roberts cites a local landmark in Landmark (above); detail from Tanya Woods' sculpture Sanction 0-6.625".

Photos: Chui-Ahn Jeong

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